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## FAX COVER SHEET

January 23, 2003

Group 1644

TO: Examiner A. DeCloux

FIRM: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

DOCUMENT: Informal Communication re 09/308,150

FROM: Stephen A. Slusher Reg. No. 43,524

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET): 3

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CLIENT # 30394  
MATTER # 1027

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INFORMAL COMMUNICATION  
PATENT APPLICATION

## PEACOCK, MYERS &amp; ADAMS, P.C.

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January 23, 2003

U.S. and International  
 Patent searches and protection  
 Trademark searches and protection  
 Copyright searches and registrations  
 Intellectual property litigation  
 Licensing of intellectual property  
 Health, medical and FDA law  
 Contracts and product development  
 Employment agreements  
 Confidentiality/Non-compete agreements  
 Computer law  
 Trade secrets  
 Art law

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Waltherus J.W. van Venrooij, et al.

Serial No. 09/308,150

Filed: September 30, 1999

For: PEPTIDE DERIVED FROM AN ANTIGEN  
 RECOGNIZED BY AUTOANTIBODIES FROM  
 PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS,  
 ANTIBODY DIRECTED AGAINST SAID PEPTIDE,  
 A COMBINATORIAL ANTIGEN, AND A METHOD  
 OF DETECTING AUTOIMMUNE ANTIBODIES

Examiner: A. DeCloux

Group Art Unit: 1644

INFORMAL COMMUNICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Examiner DeCloux:

This letter is an informal communication pursuant to our telephone call yesterday.

We have filed a request for a corrected filing receipt, adding Gerardus Antonius Schellekens as an inventor. You will ascertain whether Applicant's Petition under 37 CFR § 1.47(a), mailed September 30, 1999, was ever acted upon, and if not, what steps need to be taken. Please feel free to call me if we need to take any action in this regard.

On the issue of modification of the arginine site chain, in addition to citrulline, Applicant has disclosed other specific side chain alterations. See page 10, line 29 through page 11, line 11. Modification of the arginine side chain as described by the formula at page 10 is well known; for example, methyl arginine (where x is NHCH<sub>3</sub> and y is NH) has been described in the literature since at least 1974.

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Ser. No. 09/308,150

With respect to Serre, et al., U.S. 5,888,833, the only mention of citrulline is as part of a description of filaggrin. Col. 5, lines 15-24. Identification of a 40 KD protein (Col. 26, lines 46-54) does not anticipate specific short sequences or small peptides (under 21 amino acids). Serre, et al., does not disclose any specific peptides of 21 or fewer amino acids, much less any peptide (or indeed protein) including a modified arginine.

Please feel free to give me a call; I've calendared to touch base with you next week.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen A. Slusher, Reg. No. 43,924  
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